



Kentucky Fish & Wildlife Commissioner's NEWSLETTER

• October 2007 • Vol. 2, No. 10

AFWA thanks

KDFWR hosted the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' annual conference at the Galt House in Louisville this year. Approximately 750 fish and wildlife professionals from all across North America attended.

Everything seemed to run very smooth, and we received numerous compliments from other states staff as well as the AFWA staff.

Thanks to all staff who put in the time and effort to make this a very successful conference. For fear of leaving someone out I will not mention names but again, please know that I appreciate all that each of you did.

I consider all of our KDFWR staff to be top notch professionals and don't say thank you enough. Keep up the good work!

P.S. Deer season is here. Get out and hunt.



Deputy Commissioner Mark Cramer, Marketer Michael Gray and John Akers at the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies annual conference in Louisville.

More positions upgraded

Title Code	Position Title	Current Grade	New Grade
7134	Fish & Wildlife Technician I	8	9
7135	Fish & Wildlife Technician II	9	10
7136	Fish & Wildlife Technician III	10	11
7137	Fish & Wildlife Technician Supervisor	12	13
7144	Fish & Wildlife Management Foreman	13	14
7016	Fish & Wildlife Land Surveyor	14	15
7017	Fish & Wildlife Land Surveyor Supervisor	15	16

As part of ongoing efforts to ensure that our employees' salaries are competitive (Strategic Plan Objective 5.3.e), the Department has continued to work with the Personnel Cabinet on the previous upgrade proposals.

Earlier this year, the department was successful in obtaining increased grades for the Associate Video Producer (I and II) and the Fish and Wildlife Information Specialist (I and II). At that time, I encouraged everyone to be patient as we

continued to push for even more upgrade opportunities.

Just last week after several meetings, question/answer sessions, and additional justifications, we were given the approval to increase the grades for the fish and wildlife positions listed above.

There are still some positions for which the Personnel Cabinet has not yet granted an upgrade. These positions remain a focus for future possibilities, and we are continuing our efforts to upgrade them.

Congratulations to each of you that have received an upgrade thus far, and know that we will continue to work with both the Commerce Cabinet and Personnel Cabinet to reward all employees for their hard work.

“Kentucky Afield” Radio back on the air!

By Charlie Baglan

“Kentucky Afield” is going back to where it all began - radio. Thanks to rousing interest from the Kentucky News Network (KNN), the great outdoors will soon be on great stations across the state.

With the pace and feel of sports talk shows, the new “Kentucky Afield Radio” will feature folks in-the-know for people on-the-go. Tim Farmer hosts with a surprisingly familiar voice as side-kick and producer, Russ Kennedy. Yes, the same Mr. Kennedy who retired two months ago yearning for the simple life.

For two hours every Sunday evening, the duo will welcome expert guests, colorful characters, and listeners' calls to talk hunting, fishing, boating, and everything wild about Kentucky. From the field to the front office, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife will make all personnel available to the show's success.

Since 1952, “Kentucky Afield” Radio has been heard in a variety of formats. Through the mid 70s with hosts includ-



ing the originator, Ron Rhody, it aired as a fifteen minute taped interview. Between 1997 – 2005 the show was a five minute report on conservation and environmental interests. As times change, so has the show.

Today, “Kentucky Afield” Radio is a live hunting, fishing and everything wildlife call-in show. As a TV show, magazine, and newspaper column, the “Kentucky Afield” name is synonymous with the Kentucky outdoors. And as for that Farmer guy, we're certain his celebrity will help turn long-time viewers into avid listeners.

“There's nothing that can equal it,”

notes Commissioner Jon Gassett who was not even attempting to hold back a grin. “This has been discussed back and forth for years and I'm glad to see it coming about. Programmers with KNN showed immediate interest along with fourteen affiliate stations, so far.” The commissioner added, “Interaction with the sporting public is irreplaceable. Two-way communication between sportsmen and women and the department lets us all do our jobs better – for the wildlife and our customers. I just hope I can be a guest from time to time.”

“This is going to be fun,” says Farmer. “It's hard to squeeze in every question from every caller on our KET call-in shows four times a year, but we can on weekly radio. The range of topics we can discuss is endless with our staff. Every one wants to share their own experiences and add their two cents. With this show, we can chat and get to know each other.”

Just when “Kentucky Afield” Radio will hit the airwaves is still in the works. Stations are currently in the midst of drawing other program obligations to a close and we're working closely with KNN to secure a home studio and staff. The “Kentucky Afield” theme song could be thumb picking through the air as soon as deer season or closer to the New Year.

Stay tuned.



Opening day success

Retired 6th District Captain Joe Carrier (kneeling 2nd from right) was joined by a host of folks who helped him recover and load the 330s class 6 x 6 bull elk he took on opening day of this year's elk season in Knott County. From left are Russell and Cornell Amburgey, brother and father of 7th District Captain Ken Amburgey (whose farm Carrier hunted), officers Shane Carrier (Joe's son who called in the bull), Barry McCoy and Scott McIntosh, Trevor Carrier, officer Homer Pigman, Rachel Boudreaux, officer Willie Amburgey, Alex Osborne, Capt. Ken Amburgey, hunting partner and retired 4th District Captain Mac Warren, and Major Randy Hedges.



Sergeants Jason Bolton (left, 9th District), Myra Minton (center, 3rd District) and Chad Parker (right, 1st District) recently graduated the Department of Criminal Justice Training's Academy of Police Supervision. Minton finished with the second highest score ever – 299 out of a possible 300.

Bolton, Minton, Parker graduate DOCJT's APS program

RICHMOND – Three Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife conservation officers were among officers from 12 agencies across the commonwealth recognized at a graduation ceremony Monday, October 1, for completing the Kentucky Department of Criminal Justice Training's Academy of Police Supervision.

Department Sergeants Jason Bolton of the Ninth District, Myra Minton of the Third and Chad Parker of the First graduated the three-week, 120-hour program, also called the sergeant's academy, that is designed for newly promoted sergeants or officers who are on their agency's promotion list to become sergeants.

Minton was recognized during the ceremony for completing the program with the second highest score ever, 299 out of a possible 300. Approximately 500 sergeants and lieutenants from agencies throughout Kentucky have completed the course.

"These classes are intense," said Third District Captain Dennis Watson. "I believe Myra is more surprised with her accomplishment than any of us who work with her. It is an outstanding achievement, and we are all very proud of the way she representing the Department and the third law enforcement district."

While in APS, students participate in

classes focusing on the role of a supervisor, as well as leadership, resolving conflict, managing diversity, monitoring officer performance, professional image, legal issues for supervisors, ethics, interpersonal communication, effective written communication, making decisions, solving problems, managing critical incidents, public speaking, emotional survival, budgeting, media relations and others.

The program includes reading and writing assignments and scenario-based exercises designed to enhance the students' ability to perform at the supervisor level in their agencies. APS is hands-on, with as much skill demonstration as classroom work.

The graduating class is the 24th to complete APS since the program began in 2003.

Kenton County Police Chief Ed Butler was the guest speaker of the graduation ceremony.

APS is a stepping stone to the Department of Criminal Justice Training's Criminal Justice Executive Development program, which is a five-week advanced leadership course offered once a year for supervisors at Kentucky's small and medium-size law enforcement agencies. Potential CJED students must rank sergeant or above and be selected by a committee to

take part in the course.

The Department of Criminal Justice Training is a state agency located on Eastern Kentucky University's campus. The agency is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies and was the first accredited public safety-training program in the nation. In 2006, the academy also became the first law enforcement-training academy in the nation to be designated as a CALEA flagship agency.

Couch joins I & E as CEPL

Scott Couch has joined Information & Education Division as its newest Conservation Education Program Leader. He will be working in the Knox County area, also representing Whitley, Harlan, Bell, Clay, Jackson, Owsley, and Laurel counties.

Scott graduated in May 2007 from Eastern Kentucky University with a degree in Parks and Recreation. He grew up in Perry County and already has five years experience at Conservation Camps Wallace and Webb as a camp counselor and counselor supervisor.



October trout stocking delayed

High water temperatures and low flows will delay rainbow trout stockings in many of the 14 seasonal catch and release streams, 16 lakes, and seven tailwaters that were to be stocked in early October.

The unusually warm and dry summer has kept surface water temperatures of Kentucky's lakes and tailwaters in the mid to upper 70's. Although most stream temperatures are lower and adequate for trout survival, flows are greatly reduced in many of the streams on the stocking schedule.

As a result, some stream reaches are pooled-up, and if stocked, trout would not be able to disperse. This situation would result in the confined rainbow trout being too vulnerable to anglers.

Optimum water temperatures for rainbow trout, a cold water species, are considered to be less than 65° F. Rainbow trout will cease feeding when the water temperature exceeds 68° F, though they can tolerate temperatures in the low to mid 70's for short periods of time. Mortality of rainbow trout occurs when water temperatures rise into the upper 70's.

Trout will be stocked during the first and second week of October at a limited number of sites where conditions are suitable. The list of water bodies being stocked will be available on the Department's website.

The public will also be made aware of trout stocking changes with timely press releases. It is hoped that conditions will improve later in October allowing the stocking of rainbow trout in the remaining streams.

Prescribed burn at Headquarters



Wildlife Division conducted prescribed burns on the native grass units at Headquarters late last month. Dave Frederick and Chris Grasch guarded the perimeter (top photo) while Brian Clark walked another edge (middle photo). At right, Grasch keeps a burn line from spreading in the dry edges.



BIG-P funds available to help Kentucky marinas



The Boating Infrastructure Grant Program (BIG-P) was established by Congress through the Sport Fishing and Boating Safety Act of 1998.

BIG-P provides federal funding assistance for the installation, construction, and maintenance of short-term dockage (less than 10 days) for transient, non-trailerable recreational vessels that are 26 feet or greater in length on navigable waters.

Navigable waters in the Commonwealth of Kentucky include the Mississippi River, Ohio River, Kentucky Lake (Tennessee River), Lake Barkley (Cumberland River), and Lake Cumberland.

Other activities that are considered allowable under BIG-P include the installation of mooring buoys, navigational aids, floating or fixed breakwaters, floating restrooms, retaining walls, bulkheads, dockside utilities, recycling and trash receptacles, electricity, water supplies, and pay telephones.

Facilities constructed or maintained with BIG-P funds must be maintained for a minimum of 20 years. Any fees charged by the marina to utilize these facilities must be equitable, based upon the prevailing rate in the area and go back into the maintenance of the facility.

Where does the money come from to fund the BIG-P?

Annually, a maximum of two percent of the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund is dedicated to BIG-P. This money is generated from excise taxes on sport fishing equipment, electric motors, and sonar. Money is also generated on import duties on fishing tackle, yachts, and pleasure craft. Money also comes from that portion of gasoline taxes that are attributable to motorboats and small engines. Lastly, money is also generated on the interest that accumulates in the Trust Fund.

BIG-P is comprised of either Tier I

or II funding. Annually, the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) receives \$100,000 in Tier I federal funds to be utilized on projects. Traditionally, this money is distributed to one or two marinas to help construct transient dock facilities.

Marinas may apply for funding by submitting project proposals to the KDFWR. Approved projects are funded with 75 percent federal funds, with the approved marina providing the remaining 25 percent match.

Marinas that desire to submit project proposals that exceed \$100,000 in federal funds may apply for Tier II funding.

Tier II funding has no set dollar limit and are awarded on a nationally competitive basis. Typically, marinas that seek Tier II funding must provide a minimum of 50 percent match in order to remain nationally competitive.

To date, the KDFWR has provided \$989,545 in BIG-P federal funds to participating marinas throughout Kentucky. Twelve transient dock facilities have been constructed, with two projects still pending completion.

Transient dock facilities have been constructed and maintained at four marinas on Kentucky Lake, two marinas at Lake Barkley, three marinas at Lake Cumberland, and two marinas on the Ohio River.

Marinas interested in applying for federal assistance under BIG-P should contact Ryan Oster (502-564-3400) for further information.

Administrative Services update

As a way to publish timely updates and reminders, the Administrative Services Division will begin providing information in the Commissioner's Newsletter each month, beginning with this installment.

These monthly updates will provide our staff an opportunity to communicate with all employees regarding the most pressing issues. This month's update will focus on ProCard.

In August, all procard holders were instructed to begin turning in procard receipts **no later than weekly**. As a way of ensuring that ProCard receipts receive the prompt attention required, cardholders should send all ProCard receipts directly to the attention of **Tina Morgan**, ProCard Administrator, Administrative Services Division, #1 Sportsman's Lane.

You may also fax your ProCard receipts to **(502) 696-5165**. Please remember, if faxing, to forward your originals to Tina as well for eventual audit purposes.

To ensure continued compliance with all Procard guidelines, please also remember:

1. Receipts must include the cardholder's name and signature (It is the responsibility of the cardholder to collect receipts from any other users, code them and forward to Administrative Services);
2. Receipts must include a description of the item as well as the appropriate accounting templates (s) and e-codes for all purchases;
3. Cardholders must ensure that they do not pay sales tax – sales tax exemption # is on the backside of the ProCard;
4. Card holders must input and reconcile with their receipts the ProCard purchase information in the Visa Information Website at least weekly, in order to verify all purchases.
5. Supervisors should review and indicate their approval of all ProCard activity in the Visa Information Website at least



A gallery of onlookers watched closely as Dave Frederick drew a bead on clay targets in a shootoff after tying with five others in the long bird event during the first Sporting Clays Challenge in the Kentucky Employee Charity Campaign September 28 at Elk Creek in Owen County. At right, 5th District Commission Member Dr. Jim Rich studies the score sheets after the awards ceremony. The event raised nearly \$1,700 for charity.



6. Cardholders and Approvers can reset their Visa Information Web-

site password by sending an email to FinanceCRC@ky.gov.

There is a schedule and policy guidelines on FWNet that details the specific cycles and deadlines for all procard actions – which affect the cardholder, the approver, and/or the accounting staff. Please refer to this for your convenience.

Clean Vessel Act Grant Program



The Clean Vessel Act (CVA) Grant Program was established by Congress through the Clean Vessel Act of 1992 (an amendment to the Sport Fish Restoration Act). The CVA Grant Program is designed to help reduce pollution from boat sewage discharges.

CVA provides federal funding to both public and private marinas to construct, operate, renovate, and maintain boat sewage pumpout facilities and portable dump stations (including floating restrooms).

Activities necessary to hold and transport sewage, such as holding tanks, piping, haulage costs, and bleed in facilities are also eligible activities under the CVA Grant Program. Funding may also be used for the production of educational/informational programs.

Where does the money come from to fund the CVA Grant Program?

Annually, a maximum of 2 percent of the money in the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund is dedicated to the CVA Grant Program. This money is generated from excise taxes on sport fishing equipment, electric motors, and sonar.

Money is also generated on import duties on fishing tackle, yachts, and pleasure craft. Money also comes from that portion of gasoline taxes that are attributable to motorboats and small engines. Lastly, money is also generated on the

interest that accumulates in the Trust Fund.

Federal funding for the CVA Grant Program is nationally competitive. Marinas may apply for funding by submitting project proposals to the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources (KDFWR). Project proposals are then reviewed and sent to the United States Fish & Wildlife Service where they are individually scored and ranked. Projects

then are awarded annually, based upon the total amount of federal funds available for the CVA Grant Program.

CVA projects are funded with 75 percent federal funds. Individual marinas

must provide the remaining 25 percent match for the project. Pumpout facilities must be accessible to the general public for the full period of their useful life (five years). Any fees charged by the marina to utilize these facilities must be reasonable and equitable, based upon the prevailing rate in the area and go back into the maintenance of the facility.

To date, the KDFWR has provided \$553,803 in CVA Grant Program funds to participating marinas throughout Kentucky. A total of 38 boat sewage pumpout facilities have been constructed or maintained, with an additional eight sewage pumpout facilities pending completion.

Interested marinas should contact Ryan Oster (502-564-3400) for further information.

Annual golf tournament for KECC



Retired Wildlife Division employee Russ Kennedy stuck with tradition and returned to cook burgers and hotdogs for the annual KDFWR Golf tournament in September at Bob-O-Link Golf Course in Lawrenceburg. He was helped by Personnel's Pat Barnard. Nearly four dozen players participated and contributed to the KECC campaign.

One man's weed is another fowl's food!



Clockwise from top left: Bidden, Smartweed, Foxtail Millet, Barnyard Grass Millet and Umbrella Sedge.

Under current agricultural views, a weed is any plant where it is not wanted. While most landowners consider the following plants as weeds, they represent some of the best nutrition, as well as the most dependable and sustaining waterfowl foods in our wetland systems.

These plants are also those that are the result of natural site conditions and/or simple water level management. The following pictures are snap shots of some of the native vegetation that were the prod-

ucts of moist soil management at Sloughs WMA.

These plants occur across the state anywhere that the soils, hydrology and seed bank all exist. So, don't count these weeds out as being detrimental, as they remain some of our best wildlife foods. More species of wildlife depend on these fall, colorful, native plants than the cultivated varieties of row crops across the state.

Bidden: These are late season bloomers of deep yellows and are common in moist areas and moist woodlands. The seeds of this plant are disliked by the sportsman who cross their path and find them stuck in their clothes; but they are highly sought after by waterfowl, especially when these sites are flooded.

Umbrella Sedge: These plants are

highly desirable by some species of waterfowl for their seed and vegetative mass, as well as the plant structure which is used by invertebrates when they are flooded. These plants are indicators of some of the wettest site conditions.

Barnyard Grass

Millet: This is the meat and potatoes of the waterfowl foods. These plants are robust, productive and dependable late season food producers. Many species of waterfowl feed on different parts of the plant; some on the seed, some on the leaves, some on the roots and most on the insect life that lives on the stems when these plants are flooded.

Smartweed:

Many varieties exist in Kentucky. These plants are indicators of moist, late season conditions and are highly prized by waterfowl. The seed of this plant is one of the most nutritious on the landscape and the plant structure and leaf mass produce a large volume of invertebrate larvae when they are flooded. Their late summer blooms of white, pink and even pale red are indicators of food for wetland dependant wildlife later in the year.

Foxtail millet: Although there are many species of these plants that grow across the state these are again plants that produce seed on a dependable basis. They can live on a variety of sites and hydrology and are consistent producers in late or dry years.

So don't count these weeds out as many species of wildlife and waterfowl depend on them, all year long.